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REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TOURISM

Kinshasa (Zaire), 21 and 22 November 1987

A. ORGANIZATION

1. At the invitation of the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire, the First Conference of African Ministers of Tourism was held from 21 to 22 November 1987 in Kinshasa.

B. PARTICIPATION

2. The representatives of the following member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa were represented; Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia (People's Democratic Republic of), Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Specialized Agencies and Institutions of the United Nations, Inter-Governmental Organizations and International Professional Associations of Tourism were also represented as Observers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Tourism Organization (WTO), United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) Great Lakes Economic Community (CEPGL), Union of African Railways (UAR), Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU) European Economic Community (EEC), African Travel Association (ATA), International Hotel Association (IHA) Continental Hotel Consultants (CHC) and Travel Consultants International (TCI).

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Citoyen BEYEYE Djema, first thanked Citoyen Prime Minister and Personal Representative of the President - Founder of the M.P.R. for having honoured the opening of the first Conference of African Ministers of Tourism with his presence. This indeed is evidence of the continued interest of the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire and its Head of State, in all activities aimed at strengthening cooperation among African on important issues relating to their welfare.

5. He welcomed participants to Kinshasa which can now be considered as the launching pad for cooperation in the tourism sector. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire, he went on to express sincere condolences to the Senegalese delegation on the occasion of the death of the Senegalese Minister of Tourism, Mr. Momar Talla Cisse, and called for a moment's silence to be observed in his memory.

6. He indicated that Africa is endowed with a vast variety of Tourism products which have been scarcely developed and even when they are, this is done in an uncoordinated manner. Consequently, African countries record very low profits in comparison with the big transnational corporations involved in tourism management.

7. He also observed that it is time for Africa to take charge of tourism, since it could play an important rolein its development, as a factor of economic and cultural integration, and a phenomenon which can promote peace.

8. He stressed the need for coordination in the tourism sector and the protection of the young African tourism industry from competition. To support this idea, he mentioned the propaganda compaign currently being carried out against African tourism products, on account of a certain disease; this campaign is intended to eliminate African countries from the expanding circuits of international tourism.

9. He called for increased cooperation, since only African States themselves can best protect their own interests. Zaire has faith in African cooperation in tourism and is convinced that its promotion at continental level is indeed a shortcut for accelerating the process of Africa's economic, cultural and political integration, in conformity with the overall objectives of the Monrovia Strategy, and the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act.

10. In conclusion, he expressed his firm conviction in the commitment of the delegations here, to lay the foundations of an intra-African cooperation, aimed at positive and concrete action in the tourism sector.

11. The Prime Minister then officially declared open, the first Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism.

12. The Secretary General of WTO in his opening remarks thanked the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire and ECA for the opportunity given him to participate in the Conference. He said that although there is a global economic crisis, efforts should be made by industrialized countries and the international community to help the African continent to overcome the crisis.

13. He informed the meeting that tourism ranks third among export industries and that there is evidence that it will be the world's foremost industry by the end of the century. He urged African countries to exploit the potential of tourism even further; and that the same should apply to sectors which support tourism.

14. He appealed to Governments to carefully plan and monitor the development of tourism and said that WTO is ready not only to support African Governments in the development of tourism but also to strengthen its relationships with other international organizations involved in tourism development. He concluded by appealing to governments to see to it that tourism receives the attention it needs and wished the meeting every success.

15. The Director of the Hotel and Tourism Section of the ILO extended greetings and expressed wishes for the success of the meeting on behalf of the ILO Director General and the Regional Office for Africa, which he was representing at the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, whose inaugural meeting, in his view, marks an important milestone in the development of Tourism in Africa. The inability of the ILO Director General to participate in the meeting was due to his obligatory participation in the meeting of the ILO Board of Directors, which was then being held in Geneva.

16. He went on to indicate the interest with which his delegation had followed the deliberations of the meeting of government tourism experts, whose constructive approach to the problems affecting tourism in Africa had impressed him greatly.

17. He then described ILO's contributions to the sectors which were of interest to the Conference. With regard to tourism promotion, he stressed the main ingredients required, namely: TIME, MONEY and PEACE and recalled that it was the ILO Convention on paid vacation (1936) which should be viewed as the basis of modern tourism. These remunerated vacations which at the time were considered by some people as "industrial suicide", led to the emergence of an industry which today accounts for more than twelve percent (12%) of the GNP world wide, involving 340 million travellers, employing a labour force of more than 60 million workers and whose turnover exceeds US$ 200 billion.

18. Commenting on PEACE, the speaker, after having recalled that the ILO won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969 for its role in maintaining peace by promoting social justice, highlighted the fact that there are still workers in the world who do not enjoy paid vacation, nor peace.

19. Turning to tourism, the speaker stated that the ILO focuses particular attention on the development of human resources in its efforts to promote excellent conditions of work, sustain economic growth, contribute to the maintenance of peace and enable countries to rapidly attain self-sufficiency.

20. He then recalled the long standing practice, the experiences accumulated over several decades by ILO in the development of human resources for tourism and other sectors. The ILO has a unique instrument in the world, namely its tripartite structure which, with each decision making process, appeals to a consultation mechanism, bringing together States, employees and employers in dialogue.

21. The positive results of this mechanism have been acknowledged world-wide. Besides, it is the governments and their partners (employers and employees) who define the concepts, policies and programmes of the ILO and not the converse. Convention 142 and Recommendation 150 of the 1975 International Labour Conference provide adequate constructive elements with regard to TRAINING AND EDUCATION. These two concepts are closely inter-related, but similarly, TRAINING AND EDUCATION are linked to CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, without abandoning, as it were, the concept of continuous education. Such principles have become very well known and have been adopted by educators and trainers throughout the world.

22. Furthermore, the ILO has created a permanent industry Commission for the hotel, catering and tourism sector. All this goes to show that the welfare of mankind is always the main concern of the ILO. Technology is merely the means by which mankind can achieve progress.

23. The ILO programme for co-operation is multi-sectoral: it covers all sectors of the economy including, accommodation, catering, travel and leisure activities. In 1986, more than 51.2 percent (or 55 out of the 106.3 million) of the overall volume resulting from the co-operation programme, went to Africa. More than 44 percent of the financial resources were provided through UNDP. Projects range from job creation to manpower organization, professional training and management training in the appropriate sector. The training programme provides accelerated training, on-the-job training planning and establishment of vocational training institutions at national and regional levels, the development of national training schemes and policies, etc...

24. In Africa, in addition to its Regional Office in Addis Ababa, the ILO maintains ten other offices. Cooperation with ECA has been dynamic and fruitful. It will soon be further strengthened with the possible establishment of joint ECA-ILO tourism bureau, which will provide African States with whatever assistance they may require within the framework of programmes defined by these very States.

25. The ILO Representative then wished the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism every success in its deliberations.

26. The Chief of the ECA Division of Transport, Communications and Tourism, before proceeding to read out the statement of Professor Adebayo Adedeji, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, presented Professor Adedeji's apoligies for his inability to participate in this meeting on account of circumstances beyond his control, namely a last minute cancellation of a connecting flight to Kinshasa.

27. In the statement read by Mr. Bongoy, Chief of Transport, Communications and Tourism Division, Professor Adebayo Adedeji paid tribute to the Executive Council of Zaire for having accepted to host in Kinshasa, the sessions of this inaugural meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, one of the sectorial conferences of the ECA which was constituted by the ECA Council of Ministers at Yaounde in April 1986.

28. He indicated that ECA's tourism activities fall within its mission to accomplish the economic and socio-cultural integration of the continent. He stressed the fact that Africa's economic and socio-cultural integration can only be achieved with the participation of its peoples, who need to get to know and understand each other, and also work together harmoniously towards their common objectives. In this regard, intra-African tourism should be encouraged, considering its contribution to the attainment of these objectives.

29. Furthermore, he went on to explain that Africa's share in the world tourism movement is as low as only 2 per cent, owing to the general under-development of the continent, which devotes only marginal efforts to leisure and tourism activities. Other factors include massive importation of foreign equipment and techniques which significantly reduces local added value and perpetuates Africa's dependence on foreign sources. African tourism therefore is extroverted and often unprofitable. The third reason for the underdevelopment of African tourism, according to the speaker, is the inavailability of appropriate and effective mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration within the continent. In this regard, he stressed the absolute necessity of developing mechanisms for the systematic monitoring and implementation of decisions taken by African tourism officials.

30.. After having highlighted the close connection between tourism and transportation, he recalled that it was in response to the wishes of Member States during the Niamey Conference, that the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, a subsidiary organ of the ECA, came into being.

31. The ECA has continued to serve Africa, in order to take up the challenge of the development of African Tourism, which could effectively contribute to the development of the continent. ECA will continue to collaborate with other specialized United Nations and international organizations and agencies.

32. The speaker then wished the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism every success in its deliberations.

Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda item 2)

33. The agenda for the conference was as follows:

1. Opening ceremony
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Election of Bureau
4. Consideration and adoption of Resolutions and Kinshasa Declaration on Tourism, which were prepared by the first meeting of the Committee of Government Tourism Experts.
5. Consideracion of the report of the first meeting of the Committee of Government Tourism Experts.
6. Closing ceremony.

The meeting adopted the above agenda without any amendments.

Election of Bureau (Agenda item 3)

34. The meeting elected the following bureau

- Chairman : Zaire
- 1st Vice Chairman : Zambia
- 2nd Vice Chairman : Morocco
- 1st Rapporteur : Benin
- 2nd repporteur : Ghana

Consideration of resolutions and the Kinshasa Declaration on Tourism in Africa (Agenda item 4)

(a) Resolution on Tourism Promotion

35. The draft resolution prepared by the experts was adopted by the Ministers without any amendments. (text in annex 1)

(b) Resolution on the Development of human resources

36. In the discussion on the draft resolution on the development of human resources, the WTO Secretary General had reservations on the execution of a training project to be undertaken jointly by the ECA, ILO and WTO. He stated that if the ILO was to be associated with the project, WTO would in future refrain from undertaking any programme relating to training and education in Africa and would concentrate its efforts in this regard within other regions. This declaration was followed by lengthy discussions, requiring the WTO Secretary General to clarify his position. The ECA and ILO representatives also contributed to the discussions.

37. The ILO Representative, in a declaration read out to the Conference, recalled the role his organization has played in the development of human resources for the tourism sector, including professional training and education. He observed that what seems like a new discovery today, namely the link between professional training and education, is merely a re-statement in different words, of the practice and recommendations made at both national and international levels. It is impossible to provide professional training to an individual without influencing his educational background, namely his mental, social, political, economic and cultural background. This is well known to everyone, he added.

38. With regard to cooperation, ILO has proved its availability by assisting the International Union of official Travel organisations and later the WTO to be established and to develop. It is always willing to cooperate. This is its vocation. It cannot afford to be selective and does not recognize monopolies. ILO has developed more training projects in Africa than any other international or intergovernmental organization, to the satisfaction of the various Stats, which continue to place their confidence in the organization, in spite of all sorts of compaigns and pressures against it. Its programme for cooperation continues to develop. It is convinced of the need to group together the resources of international organizations in order to meet the growing demand of developing countries. This is why it will soon collaborate with ECA in establishing a joint tourism bureau within ECA.

39. The ECA Representative observed that there was no ground for controversy. After having analysed the problems relating to professional training in Africa, at the request of member States (see Resolution No.2, Niamey), the eCA has put forward concrete proposals. In order to implement these proposals, it would like to mobilize all available resources and feels WTO can be of help. ECA is still of the opinion that further contracts could solve the few difficulties which seem to persist at present. ECA has been preaching inter-agency cooperation and would like to highlight the fact that, as an integral part of the UN Secretariat, its role is not to be selective, but rather to mobilize available resources including those of intergovernmental organizations like WTO, which do not belong to the United Nations System. It is up to African Member States within the ECA and WTO to appreciate this point of view.

40. Some amendments were then made to the draft resolution and the approved text is contained in Annex 2.

(c) Resolution on Hotel Managment

41. The draft resolution prepared by the experts was amended to reflect the observations and concerns of participants and the approved text is contained in Annex 3.

(d) Kinshasa Declaration

42. The text of this declaration was approved and is attached to this report as annex 4.

Consideration of the Experts' report (Agenda item 5)

43. The Ministers felt that since the resolutions and the Kinshasa Declaration were reflections of the main points in the report of the experts and since these resolutions and the Declaration had just been adopted, it was no longer necessary to consider the experts' report in detail. Consequently the Ministers adopted the entire report.

Closure of the Meeting (Agenda item 6)

44. During the closing ceremonies on the morning of Monday 23rd November 1987, the leader of the Benin delegation, in his capacity as 1st Rapporteur, read out the three resolutions and the Kinshasa Declaration.

45. Taking the floor in his turn, the Chief of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division at the ECA, commended the outcome of the deliberations.

46. He indicated that as far as the ECA was concerned, everything would be done, as in the past, to execute the tasks assigned to it by the Ministers to cover the next two years. The ECA will continue to employ every effort in order to get partners interested in tourism, in particular the WTO, to concentrate on the problems affecting the development of tourism in Africa, so that Africa's share in world tourism will be greater than 2 percent.

47. He went on to thank the people and Government of the Republic of Zaire for their hospitality, expressed the hope of meeting again with the Ministers in Conakry in 1989 and wished all delegates a safe return home.

48. The vote of thanks (annex 5) was then read out by His Excellency Dr Abdoulaye Souaibou, Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Cameroon.

49. Finally, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, congratulated participants for the quality of their work and the outcome of their deliberations and declared the First Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, formally closed.

RESOLUTION ON THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM

The Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, meeting in Kinshasa (Zaire) on 21 and 22 November 1987.

Conscious of the contribution that tourism could make to the economic, social, cultural and political development of African States,

Reaffirming the importance and need to pursue and strengthen the policy of collaboration at all levels, with a view to harmonizing and maximizing the use of available resources as well as to enhance the effectiveness of all activities aimed at developing Tourism in Africa,

Affirming the need to integrate the tourism sector in the overall developmental process in Africa and noting that this cannot be achieved without the sincere desire of member States to cooperate in the harmonization of their policies on measures aimed at facilitating travel and tourism,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in this sector since the regional conference on intra-African cooperation in tourism, as well as the dynamic role played by the ECA in the process of intra-African cooperation in tourism and the development of the initial mechanisms for intra-African cooperation,

Commending the quality of reports presented by the ECA on its own or in collaboration with other international organizations or institutions,

1. Reaffirms that intra-African tourism is a component of the African policy on the economic, social, cultural and political integration of the continent, as well as a determining factor of development, especially within the framework of existing economic groupings in Africa;

2. Encourages the development of mechanisms and programmes for cooperation, in particular activities for the joint promotion of the African Tourism product and the creation of Inter-State circuits;

3. Requests the ECA to:

   (a) Pursue its cooperation with international organizations, particularly African intergovernmental organizations, with a view to developing their programmes relating to tourism as well as to mobilizing and coordinating available resources in order to maximize their effects on the development of tourism in Africa;

   (b) Undertake a study on the tourism activities of subregional intergovernmental organizations in Africa, so as to reactivate such activities and provide them with appropriate technical assistances;

   (c) Establish sub-regional programmes and structures for joint promotion of Inter-State tourism and tourism circuits;

   (d) Undertake studies aimed at creating inter-State circuits and assists Member States to do so;

(e) Establish the African association of tourism and take appropriate measures to ensure its functioning;

(f) Proclaim 1989 "African Tourism Year" and ensure the coordination of the planned activities in collaboration with all competent national and international bodies;

(g) Create an African tourism fair to be organized once in two years in Africa and collaborate with all competent authorities in the execution of this project;

(h) Assist African States in setting up national professional tourism associations and provide technical support to the existing associations involved in the promotion of tourism in Africa.

RESOLUTION ON HOTEL MANAGEMENT

The Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, meeting in Kinshasa (Zaire), on 21 and 22 November 1987,

Having examined the reports presented by the ECA and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corportations,

Noting that the intervention of transnational hotel management corporations does not offer African partners the benefits they should justly expect,

Observing that African countries lose substantial amounts of foreign exchange through the implementation of many of the existing hotel management contacts,

1. Reaffirms the need to provide more effective management of the tourism and hotel infrastructure in African countries;

2. Adopts the recommendations of the ECA and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations.

3. Requests the ECA in collaboration with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, WTO and ILO, to draw up model management or operations contracts for various types of hotel infrastructure, to be submitted as soon as possible to member States for their appraisal, as well as to provide effective technical assistance to African States and promoters, in the negotiation and monitoring of the execution of contracts signed with hotel management corporations.

RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, meeting in Kinshasa (Zaire) on 21 and 22 November 1987,

Noting that education and training is an essential factor for the development of tourism,

Commending the existence of professional training establishments in Africa even though they are far from adequate to cover the various needs in human resources to meet the constantly increasing demands in the tourism and hotel industry sector,

Taking note of the willingness of States endowed with such resources to put them at the disposal of their African partners within the framework of bilateral, multilateral and technical assistance agreement,

Entrusts the ECA to take the necessary measures to benefit from the capacities and experiences of WTO, ILO and the competent authorities operating in Africa to achieve the following educational and training projects,

(a) The establishment of regional tourism and hotel educational institutes;

(b) The development of training programmes for enhancing and upgrading the tourism and hotel services at various levels;

(c) The updating and publishing at regular intervals of an African Directory for Educational and Training Facilities to ensure co-ordination and mutual cooperation in the field of education and training.

E/ECA/TRANS/58

FIRST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TOURISM

KINSHASA 21 - 22 NOVEMBER 1987

"KINSHASA DECLARATION ON TOURISM"

1. We the Ministers of Tourism of the Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, meeting in Kinshasa (Republic of Zaire) at the invitation of the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire from 21 to 22 November 1987 in the first session of Conference of African Ministers of Tourism established by resolution 567 (XXI) of the XIIIth Conference of Ministers of the ECA held in April 1986 in Yaounde (Republic of Cameroon) in accordance with the recommendations of the Regional Conference on intra-African Cooperation in tourism held in Niamey (Republic of Niger) from 2 to 6 October 1984;

2. Considering the need to mobilize all available development resources, as recommended in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of 1980, the Priority Programme on Economic Recovery in Africa 1986 to 1990 adopted by the XXth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in 1985, as well as the United Natiions Programme of Action for Economic Development and Recovery in Africa adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in June 1986;

3. Convinced that tourism is one of the key-factors in economic and social development and an effective tool for the mobilization of resources and also a factor for peace and good-will among peoples;

4. Convinced of the need to strengthen intra-African and international cooperation in the tourism sector;

5. Determined to ensure the contribution of the tourism sector to the efforts for endogenous self-sustained development of our economies through the planning and implementation of an effective developmental policy in this sector;

6. Recognizing the important role of the sub-regional, regional and international organizations concerned with the development of tourism in Africa;

7. Individually and collectively resolved to take all necessary measures to strengthen intra-African and international cooperation in order to ensure the effective development and promotion of tourism resources on our continent, at national, subregional, regional and international levels;

8. Recommend to the Governments of our respective States to include tourism in the priority sectors of their national development plan and to provide all necessary means for its increased productivity;

9. Advocate that in the future specific attention be given to the development of intra-african tourism, a component of the general policy of African integration and cooperation;

10. Recommend to the governments of our respective States to take appropriate measures to encourage competent African promoters and managers, as well as the promotion of small and medium scale tourism enterprises;

11. Recommend that continued efforts be made for the development of methods of professional training in tourism related careers, that priority be given to the effective use of existing training resources within the context of intra-African cooperation, and that concrete measures be taken to develop human resources in this sector;

12. Recommend that existing institutions for sub-regional and regional economic integration ensure that tourism projects are included in their priority projects and that comprehensive investment incentives are provided to promoters of tourism in Africa;

13. Encourage the ECA and other organizations involved in tourism activities in Africa to coordinate their activities and increase their cooperatiion with African States with a view to promoting a harmonious development of African tourism;

14. Appreciate the efforts made by the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire which enabled the ECA to organize this first session of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, a Conference which will serve as an effective instrument for coordinating and strengthening intra-African cooperation in tourism.

Done in Kinshasa, on the 22 November 1987,

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LISTS OF PARTICIPANTS

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	Mr. SOLOMON DESTA D/General Manager National Hotels Corporation
11. GABON	S. E. YANGARI Albert Ministre du Tourisme
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12. GHANA	Mr. HAWKSON EBO Operational Assistant PNUD-Secretary for Trade and Tourism
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	M. KODJOVI AYAWO Conseiller économique Ministère de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
26. TUNISIE/TUNISIA	M. MOUSSA ABDELKRIM Ambassadeur à Kinshasa
	M. ARFAOUI YOUSSEF Conseiller à l'Ambassade de Tunisie à Kinshasa

27. OUGANDA/UGANDA

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Mr. BETTY IRENE MATOVU
Senior Tourist Officer

Mr. S. ODONGOACUP Stephen
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**28. UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA/
REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE**

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Deputy Minister for Lands
Natural Resources and Tourism

Mr. KASEILA TIMOTHY JOSEPH
General Manager
Tanzania Tourist Corporation

Mr. PAMBA SALEH AHMED
Tourist Officer
Ministry of Lands Natural
Resources and Tourism

29. ZAIRE

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Commissaire d'Etat chargé de la
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M. MAYEMBA TEMBE
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M. OLENGA KALONDA
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M. TSHIBALABALA KANKOLONGO
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M. WAMU W'EKUNDA
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M. MONDAOGO KO KOS SASSA
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M. VAKOKO NSONSA
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M. MPUNGU MPOLONTO
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30. ZAMBIA	Hon. MUNKOMBWE, MP DANIEL Minister of State for Tourism
	H.E. MULENGA Aaron Ambassade de Zambie à Kinshasa
	M. LEMNY L. SIWISHA Ambassade de Zambie à Kinshasa (?)
	M. N.L. KANENE Zambia National Tourist Board/Lusaka
	M. C.C. WUKUNUNA Ministry of Tourism Lusaka
31. ZIMBABWE	M. CHIHURI M. WILBERT Director General Tourist Dev. Corp.
	M. MUSHORIWA AARON Operations Manager Zimbabwe Tourist Dev. Corp.

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11. PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
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